



TAYLOR HARDIN TIMES

SEPTEMBER 2020

COVID-19 AND PATIENT CARE

All visitation to the Alabama Department of Mental Health treatment facilities will continue to be suspended to protect our patients from COVID-19. You may continue to maintain contact with your family member through telephone and mail communications until this crisis has subsided. You will be kept informed of your family's status and you may contact your relative's social worker if you have additional questions related to his status as consent allows.

All primary next-of-kin will be notified when visitation is able to be resumed. Your assistance with communicating this information to other family members/next-of-kin who may be approved for visitation would be much appreciated.

We want to assure our patient's families that our patient's care has not been disrupted during this time and they are continuing to receive services as they were prior to COVID-19.

Welcome, Kimberly McAlpine as Interim Director of THSMF!



Brandon Heath

ADVOCATE'S CORNER | SEPTEMBER 2020

This month I am focusing on the patients' right to a safe and humane environment. Patients have the right to receive services/treatment in a physical environment which is safe, clean, and where staff treat them respectfully! This also includes a physical environment that is in good repair as well as one that has adequate and appropriate food. The basic rule of thumb when considering a safe and humane environment is to put yourself in the patients' shoes—would staff supporting a safe and humane environment be important to you if you were a patient here? Yes! As an example, an important point to remember is that the right to a safe and humane environment does not include things like types of furniture, whether things are old or new, colors, etc. Instead, what does matter is whether furniture on the programs is in good condition, free of odors, and program flooring being in good shape. Living spaces should have a comfortable, pleasant feeling about them conducive to positive self-esteem. Staff on the programs should always speak to the patients with respect. Activities on the program should be focused on the patient. Other things that fall into the safe and humane environment patient right include appropriate lighting, bug/pest control, mattress quality, air filters, and proper food storage. In addition to the Patient Advocate, Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility also employs a Safety Officer who directs the Safety Department. The Safety Officer oversees many things throughout the facility that also ensure the patients' right to safety is being met!

National Suicide Prevention Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. All month, mental health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies, and community members unite to promote suicide prevention awareness.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Sep 1st: Pitru Paksha

Sept 7th: Brazil Independence Day

Sept 7th: Labor Day

Sept 10th: World Suicide Prevention Day

Sept 13th: European Heritage Days

Sept 15th: Shout of Dolores

Sept 16th: Mexican Independence Day

Sept 17th: International Patient Safety Day

Sept 18th: National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day

Sept 18th: Rosh Hashanah

Sept 22nd: Autumn Equinox

Sept 26th: National Mesothelioma Awareness Day

Sept 27th: Yom Kippur

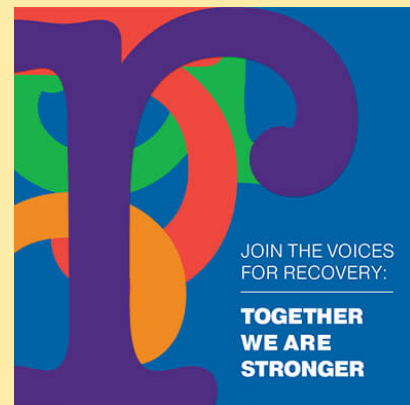
Sept 29th: World Heart Day

National Recovery Month

Recovery Month is an annual United States health observance which takes place during the month of September.

Recovery Month:

- promotes the message that recovery from substance abuse in all its forms is possible
- highlights the benefits of substance abuse treatment
- encourages citizens to take action to help expand and improve the availability of effective substance abuse treatment for those in need
- honors the contributions of treatment providers



WE WANT TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

THSMF's Main Telephone number is (205) 462-4500. You may choose to use the automated system in which you select a number for the department and then the staff member you want to speak to. If you have a question related to treatment progress, Treatment Team meetings, visitation, etc. and want to speak with a social worker, you may call directly as listed below:

Lori Ellard, Director of Social Work (205) 462-4650

Melinda Bennett, Placement Coordinator (205) 462-4659

Erika Marsh, ACE Program (205) 462-4653

Brittany Hall, ACE Program (205) 462-4562

Sarah Garner, BEST Program (205) 462-4656

Jessica Hanby, BEST Program (205) 462-4658

Chloe Tilley, CARE Program (205) 462-4543

Gabrielle Franklin, CARE Program (205) 462-4651

Brittney McCreary, DREAM Program (205) 462-4655